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Ghana

Balancing conservation and economic growth

Consistently deemed one of Africa's fastest growing economies, Ghana has long capitalized on its abundance of highly lucrative natural resources. However, despite the economic benefits of resource extraction, the government of Ghana is aware of its long-term environmental repercussions and is committed to pursuing mitigation efforts.

For the past few decades, unsustainable logging and mining, infrastructure development, and cocoa farming expansion have continuously shrunk Ghana's natural forest cover. In 2020 alone, the country lost 136,000 hectares – equivalent to over 82.2 metric tons of CO₂. If deforestation keeps trending higher, Ghana's forests could completely disappear in three decades.

The government is currently confronting these challenges through aggressive afforestation programs, aiming to simultaneously reclaim degraded lands and funnel direct financial benefits to sustainable, local land management approaches. For example, the Ghana Forest Investment Program (FIP) has (in line with REDD+ objectives) dedicated over \$75 million to secure tree tenure for cocoa farmers and adopt Behavioral Change Communication Strategies that would alter farmers' perception towards the environment.

Ghana's government has engaged the private sector in plantation development in order to reduce its pressure on natural forests and still meet the construction needs of Ghana's growing economy.

Overall, the country has enabled multiple, robust public-private partnerships (PPP) between the Forestry Commission and international players keen on developing forestry assets.

2030 GOALS

Unconditional

- 15% reduction in GHGs
- 10k hectares of degraded land reforested annually

Conditional

- 45% reduction in GHGs
- 20k hectares of degraded land reforested annually



Samuel Abu Jinapor
Ghanaian Minister for Lands and Natural Resources

“ Ghana is committed to the global efforts to preserve and protect the natural forest cover, and we shall spare no effort and resources in achieving this goal. ”

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As the second largest global cocoa bean supplier, Ghana launched the world's first commodity-based emission reductions program: the Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP). This highly ambitious initiative has garnered unprecedented support from the chocolate industry, culminating in a 2017 agreement with 27 global cocoa and chocolate companies through the World Cocoa Foundation. Over this 20 year program, Ghana aims to produce over 294 million tCO₂e of ERs.

5.9M

hectares of Ghana's cocoa-forest mosaic landscape

\$103M

approved by World Bank to reverse land degradation

558k

hectares of forest plantations established from 2002-2020

LOCAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

It is estimated that over 12 million people depend on Ghana's forest landscapes for their livelihood. Many reside in forest-fringe communities and facilitate data collection for forest monitoring. They keep a watchful eye over the nation's sacred groves: patches of primeval forests which — thanks to their religious importance — are strictly designated as protected areas and play a powerful role in the conservation of otherwise displaced species.

Ghana's Forestry Commission (GFC) has prioritized further local community collaboration. Its **Community Management Areas (CREMAs)** have authorized collaborative natural resource management, training local stakeholders, such as farmers, to sustain ecosystem processes and apprehend illegal miners and chainsaw operators in their designated lands. Legal agreements between CREMAs and the private sector have also taken root, with the latter seek on streaming green investments into these community-based initiatives.

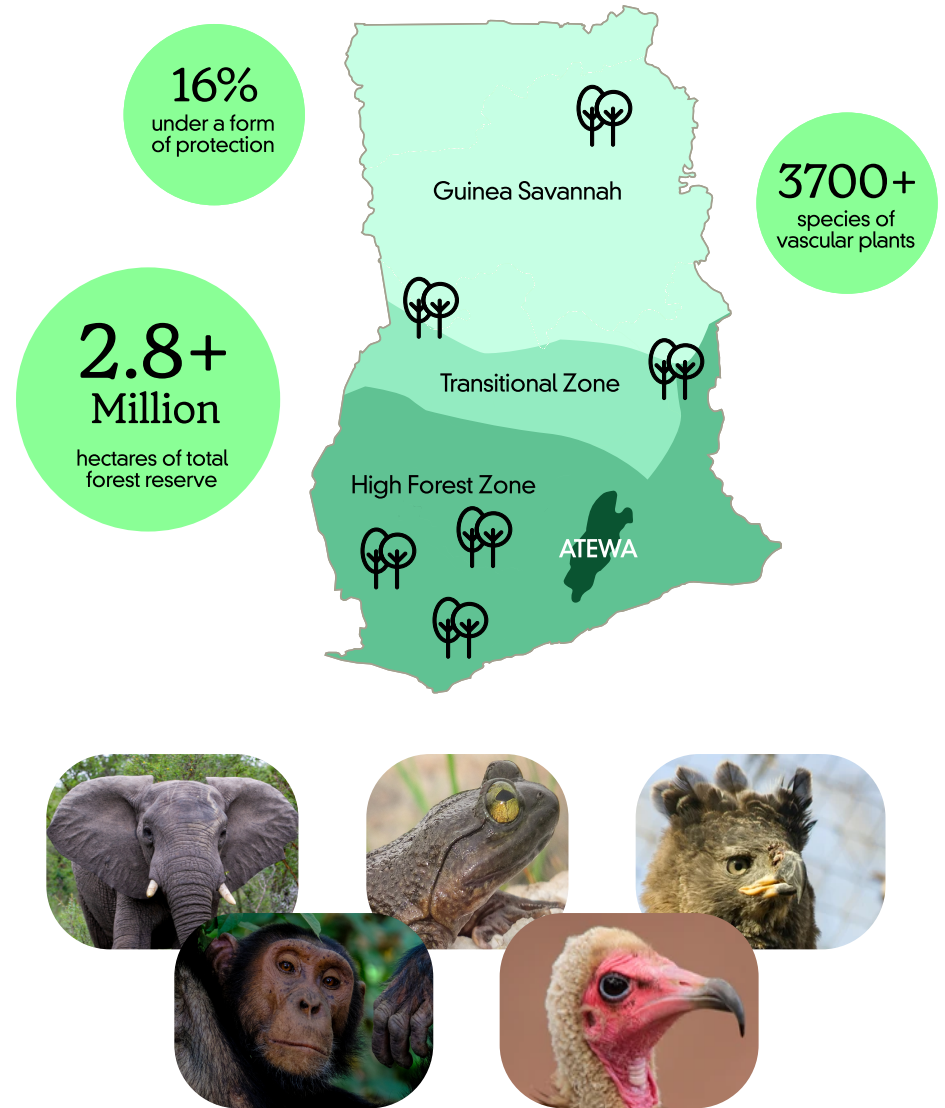
A WEALTH OF BIODIVERSITY

Ghana is mainly divided into 3 ecological zones — high forest (HFZ), transitional and savannah. The HFZ falls within the biodiversity hotspot of the Guinean forests of West Africa, one of the 36 most important biodiversity areas in the world.

SPOTLIGHT: ATEWA FOREST

The Atewa Forests's three rivers provide water to over 5 million Ghanaians in local communities and major population centers. One of Ghana's Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas, Atewa teems with over 1,000 species of plants and more than 570 species of butterflies — many of which are found nowhere else in the world. Conversely, the number of globally threatened species in Atewa is among the highest for any forest in West Africa; over 100 species are inching closer to extinction.

Habitat loss continues to endanger the country's majestic elephants, togo slippery frogs, crown hawks, chimpanzees and hooded vultures, making further conservation action crucial.



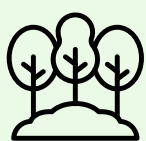
EXPERIENCED IN REDD+ FINANCE

- Joined the REDD+ Readiness process in 2008.
- Signed a 5-year ERPA in 2019 with the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FPCF) totaling over \$50M for deforestation-free cocoa production
- Launched the \$54.5M **Ghana Shea Landscape Emission Reductions Project (GSLERP)** with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to mitigate climate change effects on the northern savannah, projected to reduce emissions by 25M tonnes over 20 years.

LEAF COALITION

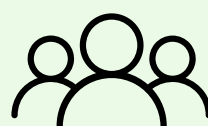
The LEAF Coalition uses the independent ART/TREES standard, which specifies requirements for the quantification, monitoring, reporting and verification of GHG emission reductions and removals from REDD+ activities at a large jurisdictional scale. In line with the Cancun Safeguards, ART/TREES upholds the right of Indigenous stakeholders to participate in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions.

SUMMARY



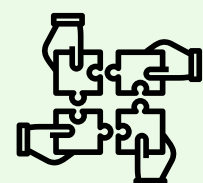
Strong History of REDD+

Ghana was one of the first African countries to successfully implement large-scale jurisdictional REDD+ programs.



Community-Based Approach

In addition to Ghana's CREMAs, a benefit sharing plan has been developed through the FPCF where 69% of benefits are redistributed to local communities.



Private Sector Engagement

The World Cocoa Foundation has convened 35 companies to commit to a no-deforestation supply chain for the cocoa sector in Ghana.